



Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3144

Paul K. Leather
Deputy Commissioner
Tel. 603-271-3801

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Higher Education – Higher Education Commission
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
FAX 603-271-1953
Citizens Services Line 1-800-339-9900**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2015

A regular meeting of the Higher Education Commission was held at 3 Barrell Court, Concord, New Hampshire at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. The following members were present:

Tom Galligan, Chair
Todd Leach, Vice Chair
Steve Appleby (via telephone)
Donald Birx
Sr. Paula Marie Buley
John Curran
Michael Diffily
Jim Fitzgerald
Alicia Harvey-Smith
Stephen Jones (via telephone)
Scott Kalicki
Peter Koch
Paul LeBlanc
David Mahoney
Michele Perkins
Eli Rivera (via telephone)
Mark Rubinstein
Lindsay Whaley (via telephone)

The following members were unable to attend:

Virginia Barry
Ross Gittell
Mark Huddleston
Anne Huot

- 1) Chair Galligan called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, especially Donald Birx, new Commissioner and President of Plymouth State University. He also congratulated Sr. Paul Marie Buley and Michael Diffily on their reappointments to the Commission.

- 2) Mr. Kalicki moved, seconded by Mr. Curran, to accept the minutes of May 12, 2015. The motion passed without dissent.
- 3) Director MacKay presented the American University of Madaba's request to change the names of certain degrees to align with the structure of the Jordanian high school education. Attorney Michael King, representing AUM, responded to several questions from Commissioners. After lengthy discussion concerning degrees being issued prior to Commission approval, Mr. Curran moved, seconded by Ms. Perkins, to defer consideration of the request, with the Commission re-considering the request and any amendments thereto, pending further communication between the University and Director MacKay. The University was required to submit the following materials as soon as possible:
- List of all degrees awarded in September, 2015 (if different from list provided previously).
 - Copies of transcripts for students who graduated.
 - Copies of the catalog provided at the time of admission to students who graduated, and the catalog for current students.
 - Copies of Board Minutes that include any reference to the authority to award degrees and/or nature/title of degrees.
 - Statement of the American University of Madaba's assessment of the potential impact of renaming and re-designating degrees on current students and the recent graduates.
 - Sample of communications to students upon admission to the University for each entering class since the American University of Madaba was established (the interest being the description of the specific degree program into which the student was accepted), plus any subsequent communication that altered that potential degree designation.
 - Clarification of the precise request to the Commission, including whether the request is for retroactive or prospect approval and the specific degrees to be authorized to award.

The above information will be used as the basis for making a determination whether or not to approve the American University of Madaba's request and to determine if the institution violated any New Hampshire statutes or Administrative Rules, and is subject to any penalties or fines.

The motion passed without dissent.

- 4) Director MacKay presented Hellenic American University's request to offer the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Hospitality Management and going forward, be granted "blanket" approval to offer additional majors within the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree. The Administrative Review of the specific proposal to add a Hospitality Management major confirmed it would meet Commission standards. The University also sought flexibility to add or delete any concentration to/from the Bachelor of Music, Master of Science in Psychology, and the Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics programs; authority that is typically granted with regard to concentrations. HAU Provost Triant Flouris providing additional information concerning the institution and enrollment. Mr. Koch moved, seconded by Mr. Kalicki to grant approval for Hellenic American University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration without limitation of the major, but within its mission, and authority to add or remove any concentration from previously approved degrees. This approval is with the

condition that copies of all materials (including annual reports) to/from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges be forwarded to the Commission. Additionally, the Commission would be invited to attend any site visit(s). Participation as an observer at site visit(s) would be determined upon receipt and review of correspondence. The motion passed without dissent.

- 5) Director MacKay presented New England College's request for continuing approval to offer the Doctor of Educational Leadership. New England College submitted a report on the program and requested an Administrative Review as the basis for an extension. Director MacKay reviewed the request and found the program met all Commission standards and was maintaining consistent enrollment and graduate rates. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will receive a report in fall of 2016 that is to include a detailed assessment of the Doctor of Education program, and the Commission would use that report to determine what action, if any, would be appropriate. Extension of Commission approval to better align with the NEASC review would be consistent with recent Commission practice and if that practice was applied to the request, approval of the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership would be extended until June 2017. Sr. Paula Marie Buley moved, seconded by Mr. Koch, to accept the request. The motion passed without dissent, with Ms. Perkins abstaining.
- 6) Director MacKay presented highlights of the Director's Report. Major highlights included:
 - a. Update on the Coalition for Business and Education's 65/25 Initiative.
 - b. Legislative updates on House Bill 577 – Establishing a children's savings account program, and Senate Bill 265 - establishing the achieving a better life experience (ABLE) savings account program.
 - c. Update on the meeting held at the New England Association of Schools and Colleges offices on October 1, 2015 to review potential changes to accreditation standards.
 - d. Recognition of The Gustafson Center at Southern New Hampshire University, in honor of Dr. Richard Gustafson, who was present at the meeting.
 - e. Update on many useful reports in the Research & Studies section.
 - f. Update on Veterans Education Services and dollars provided to higher education institutions.
- 7) Under Other Business, Mr. LeBlanc presented a brief summary on competency-based education initiatives under review and consideration by the U.S. Department of Education and his volunteer service to the Department for three months in the spring.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.